

MINUTES
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION/ROUNDTABLE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YUMA, ARIZONA
YUMA CITY HALL – CONFERENCE ROOM 190
ONE CITY PLAZA, YUMA, ARIZONA
MAY 26, 2010
2:01 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Krieger called the City Council meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Present: Mendoza, Beeson, McClendon, Brooks-Gurrola, Johnson and Mayor Krieger

Councilmembers Absent: Stuart

Staffmembers Present: City Administrator, Greg Wilkinson
City Attorney, Steven W. Moore
Various Department Heads or their representative
Deputy City Clerk, Edna M. Martin

I. CITY OF YUMA 2009-10 AND 2010-11 BUDGETS

Discussion Highlights

- In the budget book prepared for the City Council (*Preliminary Budget, City of Yuma, Arizona, Fiscal Year 2010-2011*), there are some achievements listed in various categories. Under Economic Development, it shows that the City purchased school clothes and paid for recreation activities and prescription drugs for homeless individuals who stayed at Crossroads Mission. Are some outside agencies actually double dipping by receiving funds for various programs in addition to their specific outside agency General Fund allocation?
 - The purchase was most likely made with grant funds; grant funds vary from year to year based on the grant and the community's need.
 - This spending is in addition to the General Fund allocation.
 - The Drug Education for Youth (DEFY) Program is funded by the Department of Justice via the Carver Park Neighborhood Area Weed and Seed Program.
 - The City works with many agencies and organizations on a case-by-case basis.
- Are juvenile offenders being used to perform community restitution in conjunction with the Yuma County Juvenile Probation Office?
 - This restitution program was funded through a Department of Justice, Weed and Seed Grant. The program involved using juvenile offenders to do the outside maintenance of Martin Luther King, Jr., Center. The grant reimbursed the victims of the offenders. This grant, however, has ended and, therefore, the program is no longer active.
- Are some of goals listed under Community Relations redundant with the activities of the Yuma Visitors Bureau (YVB)?
 - Many of the listed items are long-term goals with no funding allocated to them.
 - There are times when the City of Yuma needs to promote its activities, as opposed to the promoting the community as a whole, which is the responsibility of the Yuma Visitors Bureau.

- The bullet points relating to the marketing campaign, the community pen and the community flag will be removed from the document.
- City taxpayers are carrying most of the financial burden for YVB services because San Luis, Somerton and Yuma County pay significantly less to YVB than the City does.
 - The City has greater influence in directing the YVB's focus. The work YVB does for the community is worth the City's contribution.
 - Trying to separate City residents from County residents in terms of what they pay for is like trying to unscramble eggs. Trying to do so raises the same issues that were faced in the City versus County health care cost debate of some years back – issues relating to double taxation.
 - YVB is funded by 2% Hospitality Tax revenues from the City of Yuma in the amount of \$650,000.
 - San Luis, Somerton and Yuma County are paying members so they can be recognized as being a part of the community.
 - YVB's purpose is to promote Yuma, which is what it does with its funding. Yuma County is a listed beneficiary, though the other municipalities are not.
- In comparing the expenditures for the administration of the 9-1-1 operation, the 2010-2011 budgeted amount (\$12,477) is significantly different than this year's estimate (\$26,789) and previous year's expenditures (2008-2009: \$31,298; 2009-2010: \$41,419). What is the reason for this?
 - This line item is for an administrative position relating to the Public Safety Services Academy Program, a program managed by Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization that all local public safety systems pay into.
 - The money has been used to send the City's 9-1-1 manager to training that the manager in turn uses to train the other's in the program.
 - This position has been unfilled since the initiation of the Public Safety Services Academy Program.
 - In reviewing the budget, certain allocations in separate accounts were found to be supporting the program and the redundancies were eliminated.

Discussion – Issues

- The monthly Environmental Solid Waste Fee is \$6.25 per month; it pays for the Neighborhood Cleanup Program, the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program, tipping fees for the disposal of solid waste at the landfill, and some small recycling efforts. The dollar amount for each activity is not broken out. The fee does not pay for the curbside collection of solid waste.

Equipment Replacement Program

- Won't maintenance costs outweigh the savings of not continuing the Equipment Replacement Program (ERP)?
 - The Yuma Police Department (YPD) and Fire Department (YFD) are working with Equipment Maintenance to extend the life of vehicles as long as possible. Officers and firemen know the situation and are working to take care of their equipment.
 - Though no rents are currently being paid into the ERP, there is still an existing balance available for immediate needs.

- Maintaining vehicles longer rather than purchasing new vehicles is a tradeoff, but the economic reality is that the ERP must be put on hold pending the development of a new method of funding vehicle purchases. Staff is actively working to solve the problem and come up with a plan to address it; it is a ongoing priority.
- Could having no money in the ERP create service delays?
 - The ERP program provided for equipment as well as vehicles.
 - YPD has \$500,000 currently available to it in the ERP; each department has its contribution available to it.
 - There is a significant difference in the amount a new police unit costs versus a new fire truck. The City has submitted a request for a Certificate of Necessity (CON) from the State of Arizona to allow it to provide ambulance services; should the City be awarded a CON, it will bring in needed revenues.
- The ERP currently has approximately \$15 million on hand.
 - With this amount of money, it is unlikely that the City would suffer major equipment failures that cannot be managed.
 - Vehicles cannot be routinely replaced, as was done in the past when the fund was being continuously replenished.
 - Should the YPD portion of the fund be depleted, money from within the fund would be borrowed for their needs and repaid over time.
 - Staff is concerned with maintenance costs and restarting ERP departmental rents, but in terms of bottom line need, there's no worry.
 - The City has several older, but spare, rescue vehicles and fire trucks that could be brought into play.
 - Reliable equipment is the overriding issue.
- Equipment Maintenance is related to Equipment Replacement.
 - Equipment Maintenance is performed by Fleet Services, which has four mechanics positions vacant.
 - Ultimately, choosing to repair rather than purchase, pushes up repair costs.
- \$500,000 is far less than YPD should have in place.
- Restarting the program would involve an allocation of \$2 million annually.
- The City currently has \$500,000 in shop parts inventory.
- It may be that at some point, the City Council is going to have to consider reallocating resources from other departments to public safety departments to make sure public safety has adequate resources.

Parks and Recreation Department

- In a particular incident, witnessed by a City Councilmember, a ruckus broke out among kids at a softball game and there were not enough supervisors/umpires present to keep order. Is that because of cuts in the programs?
 - Co-sponsored youth sports organizations provide their own umpires; that has be the practice for years and has not changed.
 - All teams have enough fields for their games, but not all practice sessions can be accommodated.
 - Staff recommends that co-sponsored organizations contact the Amateur Softball Association for accredited umpires, some of which could be City employees working part-time.

- How will the City be able to help the Cultural Council of Yuma (CCY) since its funding has been cut?
 - The City will continue to provide them office space.
 - CCY events could be programmed through the Yuma Visitors Bureau.
- Staff needs to review its fee schedule to make sure charges to non-City residents is adequate.
 - The City Council would like to see a report on how much non-City residents pay for facilities and programs.
- Yuma has no regulation-size soccer fields; this has been a need for 15 years. Could the property purchased last year by Public Works (29 acres of land lying on the north side of 32nd Street, immediately west of the canal) be used for soccer fields – just graded with grass and a sprinkler system installed?
 - There is a conceptual plan for five soccer fields there, but there is no money for projects.
 - What is the status of the Arizona Western College (AWC) project that involved soccer fields?
 - The project involves four regulation-sized, lighted soccer fields.
 - The issue is getting water from the pond to the soccer fields. The City feels it is AWC's responsibility since the land belongs to AWC. Using City water would be cost prohibitive.
 - The intergovernmental agreement is pending.

Desert Landscaping

- What is the City doing to transition from high maintenance grass to low maintenance desert landscaping on City rights-of-way?
 - Staff is reviewing the landscaping code and identifying needed revisions.
 - Staff is also currently considering the use of solar energy, rather than electricity, to run sprinkler systems.
 - All areas are being individually re-evaluated in terms of xeroscaping.
 - Concerning the landscaping at the Big Curve (4th Avenue and 32nd Street), staff is not wanting to remove all the trees and shrubbery, but to install some desert landscaping, creating a mix of the two types.
 - The City Council would like to review those plans.

New Television Set

- How much will the redesign/construction of a new television film set cost?
 - The existing television set cost approximately \$1,000 for bookshelves; the work was done in-house.
 - Strategic Communications receives dedicated funding from cable franchise revenues; these funds will be used to update the set.
- The remote broadcasting capability and in-house recording studio involves purchasing approximately 30 square feet of foam and moving the equipment from the rear of City Hall Council Chambers to another room.

Outside Agencies – Humane Society of Yuma

Wilkinson: Staff is in the preliminary stages of preparing a report on animal control.

Mayor Krieger: Over the last six years, the City has expended \$3 million on animal control, but the animal problems haven't diminished. Now is a good time to reconsider the issue in terms of how to address it. The City should not renew its contract with the Humane Society of Yuma (HSOY), but dedicate that allocation to take over these services and provide them in-house. Members of the industry have offered to assist the City with their experience. Development plans from another city has been received.

Shawn Smith, Director of HSOY:

- To kennel a dog costs \$42 per day; the City pays roughly \$18 per day, a fee based on a 1982 study.
- In ten years, HSOY will spend \$11 million – an amount, he (Smith) also thinks is a waste of taxpayer money.
- HSOY charges a \$65 deposit for the use of feral cat traps, which is the cost of the trap; it is refunded upon return of the trap to HSOY.
- HSOY charges \$20 for an individual to bring a cat to HSOY.

City Council Discussion

- The number of animals being taken in by HSOY and euthanized is shocking.
- There's not a dog problem right now because HSOY has been taking care of it; doing this in-house won't result in a better animal control.
- The City is expected things of HSOY that are above and beyond what the City is paying it for.
- Residents want their neighborhoods to be safe and free of dead animals. People will call in and complain if there's any change in that.
- The spay/neuter program has only just begun.
- The City should go back to last's year's allocation of \$457,000 for next year.
- The feral cat program isn't working; the trap/neuter/release approach doesn't save the wildlife decimated by the cats.
- Public Works could begin to pick up carcasses.
- The City has furloughed employees, left positions vacant and made deep budget cuts. Other organizations supported by the City are having to take less. Why can't HSOY take less?

Smith: The handling of feral cats isn't and hasn't been a part of the City's contract with HSOY. Maricopa County charges \$90 to bring a cat to its humane society. The only way to mitigate feral cats is the trap/neuter/release approach. HSOY provides similar services to Yuma County. HSOY charges for licensing, but the proceeds are forwarded to Yuma County. HSOY cannot do the job it is being asked to do for \$400,000. If HSOY charged in accordance with costs, it would run the City \$750,000 annually. Donors and volunteers are subsidizing City services. HSOY needs new trucks and equipment; some have been in service for many years. The number of animals will not decrease just because HSOY is paid less.

- It would take 60-90 days to get a City-run animal control proposal in place.
 - The comparison of a City program and HSOY needs to compare apples to apples.
 - The City needs to identify specifically what it's core needs are, how they can be effectively met and at what cost.
 - Establishing a City license could be part of the solution – making the pet owners responsible for the impact of their pet.
 - If there was 100% compliance, licensing could bring in \$900,000 per year.

- Perhaps the creation of an animal control district would be the solution.
 - The Board of Supervisors would be responsible for a Countywide animal control district and State Statutes may not give them that authority.
 - Voters would have to approve the creation of a Countywide district.
- Would HSOY consider continuing the contract on a quarterly basis, for \$400,000 annually, to give all parties time to consider the options?
 - HSOY has offered to operate on a month-to-month basis.

Wilkinson clarified that Public Works does not currently pick up dead animals. HSOY doesn't routinely handle calls at night. Cats are considered "free range animals" and, as such, are not addressed in the contract. Licensing is problematic because the funds do not stay with HSOY, but go to the Yuma County Health Department.

- **Johnson:** The City should see if it (the City) can do a better job.
- **Mendoza:** Does the City really want to take on a complex operation like animal control? If the City is not happy with the contract, then it should consider hiring a compliance officer to make sure all contracts are being followed. There will always be feral cats. Keep the contract for one year at \$457,000.
- **Beeson:** The issue seems to pivot on only \$57,000. The City has cut expenditures significantly, but there is something to be said for having a smooth-running animal control operation. It's doubtful that the City could run such operations for \$457,000.
- **Stuart:** The City has been moving money from one pot to another to manage things; perhaps, the money could just be transferred to fully fund HSOY.
 - If you give it to one, you take it away from another.
- **Brooks-Gurrola:** Cutting these services will create an uproar; keep the allocation and contract at \$457,000. It costs a great deal to start up an operation.
- **McClendon:** Keep the contract at \$457,000. Moving toward a quarterly contract will make operating a business difficult.

Wilkinson stated that staff will:

- Include an allocation for HSOY of \$457,000 in the proposed budget.
- Pursue discussions with local officials concerning the creation of an animal control district
- Address areas in the HSOY contract that need attention.
- Review City ordinances for revisions.

Moore: The specifications of a contract with HSOY will come before the City Council for separate consideration and approval.

Discussion continued:

- The Countywide transit systems are heavily subsidized by local governments and are in deep financial trouble. The City's allocation to Yuma County Area Transit (YCAT) could be used to fund HSOY.
 - Is this a case of choosing animals over people?
 - This is not the case and it is an inappropriate characterization.
 - The transit system issue must be addressed by all involved, not just the City of Yuma.
 - \$57,000 is nowhere near what's need to fix this problem.

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- The increase in the amount of money needed for YCAT and Dial-A-Ride amounts to \$65,000, an amount close to the \$57,000 needed by HSOY.

Greater Yuma Port Authority

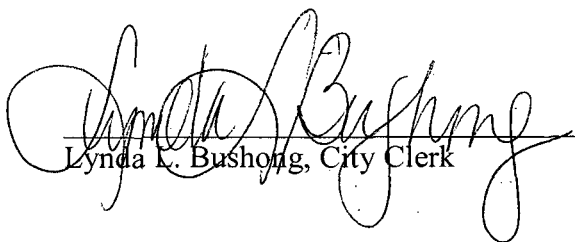
- Staff is seeking direction on the increase of \$55,000 to the Greater Yuma Port Authority (GYPA).
- **Mayor Krieger:** The opening of the port is imminent, pending Mexico's go ahead. It is incumbent upon the City Council to look beyond the yearly budget to greater issues – issues affecting the regions, state and county far into the future. The City of Yuma has already invested a great deal in the port and must continue its support to control its direction and reap the benefits.
- The base fee to the City – the current cash call – is \$50,000. The City is in arrears from last year in the amount of \$5,000, making the total allocation necessary to remain a voting member \$55,000.
- **Beeson:** The City has invested \$759,000 in the port to date. To cut the allocation will be to walk away from a seat at the decision-making table for merely \$55,000. It would be a mistake not to continue. Senate Bill 1070 is making for interesting political times and it is important for Yuma to send a clear message that it supports trade and economic development with Yuma's neighbors to the south.
 - If the City backs away from membership in GYPA, it should especially continue its membership in the Arizona/Mexico Commission.
- **Brooks-Gurrola:** It is important to stay involved in the port and have a say in the future industries that will result from the port well into the future.
- **Mendoza:** Just sitting on the Board of Directors doesn't give the City much control over the port's operations. The City hasn't seen any return on its investment; he (Mendoza) failed to see the purpose of continued investment.
 - There is a direct relationship between the investment in the past and benefits in the future. The port constitutes a billion dollar opportunity – to bring cross border commerce to Yuma. The port will be an economic engine producing jobs and ensuring truck safety. GYPA owns a large parcel of property adjacent to the port that it will rent, lease or sell – a plan on how it will develop the property will be completed by 2013 – at which time participating members will see a return of their investment at the very least.
- **McClendon:** The City Council has the opportunity to make decisions that will benefit the community for decades. It's important to look at the big picture. The City should continue participating in GYPA.

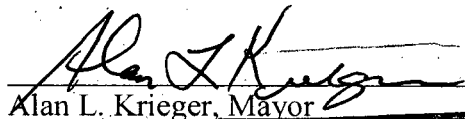
Wilkinson explained that members of Yuma HEAT did not attend tonight's meeting because they are meeting with Chavez tomorrow.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, **Mayor Krieger** adjourned the meeting at 4:29 p.m. No Executive Session was held.

APPROVED:


Lynda L. Bushong, City Clerk


Alan L. Krieger, Mayor

Approved at the City Council Meeting of:	
September 1, 2010	
City Clerk:	